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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

February 28, 2022

Dr. Earthea Nance
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270

Re: Retrospective Federal Clean Air Act, §179B Demonstration for El Paso County

Dear Dr. Nance:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is submitting an international transport demonstration allowed under federal Clean Air Act, §179B(b) for the El Paso County portion of the El Paso-Las Cruces, Texas-New Mexico Nonattainment Area for the 2015 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This demonstration documents that El Paso County would have attained the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS by the attainment date of August 3, 2021 "but for" international contributions from neighboring Ciudad Juárez in Mexico. The TCEQ requests U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval of this demonstration in time to prevent reclassification of El Paso County to moderate for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS.

El Paso and Doña Ana Counties share the United States/Mexico international border with Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The EPA has long recognized that the air quality in the region is impacted by emissions from Mexico. In June 2021, the New Mexico Environment Department submitted a §179B(b) demonstration documenting that the southern portion of Doña Ana County would have attained the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS but for emissions from Mexico. The enclosed §179B(b) demonstration presents findings that are consistent with the New Mexico demonstration and supports the conclusion that the El Paso County portion of the El Paso-Las Cruces, Texas-New Mexico Nonattainment Area would have attained the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS but for emissions from Mexico.

Comments received during the public review period are addressed in Appendix B of the demonstration, and also enclosed.

We look forward to discussing this demonstration with your staff during your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tonya Baer".

Tonya Baer, Director
Office of Air

Enclosure

cc: Guy Donaldson, EPA Region 6